Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

ISO-00 DHA-02 OIC-02 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 IOE-00

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /090 W

----- 075821

PR 311635Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6472

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, PORG, UNESCO, XF, XG

SUBJ: UNESCO MEETING ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE

DRAFT DECLARATION: "ZIONISM-RACISM": NINE

TO SEEK AVOIDING CONCLUSIVE TEXT

REF: PARIS 33826 (NOTAL)

1. UK DEPPERMREP (BIRREL) INFORMED PERMDEL THAT UNESCO NINE GROUP MEETING DECEMBER 30 CONSIDERED SUBJECT MEETING AND GENERAL POLICY QUESTION OF ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE AS WHOLE AND AGREED ON FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION. ALL OF NINE, EXCEPT BELGIUM, WERE REPORTEDLY PRESENT. PERMREPS OF THE UNESCO NINE GROUP AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE JANUARY 8 MEETING IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LUXEMBOURG OF THE NINE'S RESPECTIVE DIRECTORS OF UN

AFFAIRS SEEK TO FORMULATE A COMMON POLICY ON REACTING TO THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE WHENEVER RAISED IN FUTURE UNESCO MEETINGS. SHOULD LUXEMBOURG MEETING BE ABLE TO REACH SOME AGREEMENT ON A COMMON POLICY, IT WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE AN INFLUENTIAL BEARING ON NINE THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANTLY, BIRREL REPORTED THERE IS CONTINUING DISAGREEMENT AMONG NINE HERE ABOUT WHETHER WITHDRAWAL FROM MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES MEETING IN DECEMBER SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOLELY ATTRIBUTED EITHER TO "ZIONISM-RACISM" ISSUE OR TO BREAKING OF CONSENSUS PROCEDURE. FRG, DUTCH AND BELGIANS SEEM MOST INCLINED TOWARDS HARD-LINE ON "ZIONISM-RACISM" WITH ITALIANS AND ESPECIALLY FRENCH AT OTHER EXTREME.

2. MORE IMMEDIATELY AND WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON SUBJECT MEETING, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD JANUARY 26-30 HERE, THE UNESCO NINE'S SPOKESMAN (CARDUCCI, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO) WILL SEEK TO MEET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW TODAY, WHILE EXPHASIZING THAT NEITHER HE NOR ANY OF THE OTHER NINE'S PERMREPS HERE HAVE YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. CARDUCCI WILL MAKE A "TENTATIVE" PROPOSAL THAT THE AGENDA BE RESTRUCTURED SO THAT THIS MEETING WOULD COMPRISE ONLY RPT ONLY A GENERAL DEBATE ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICES ISSUES AND NOT RPT NOT SEEK TO PRODUCE ANY DRAFT DECLARATION. CARDUCCI REPORTEDLY WILL CITE PURELY TECHNICAL ARGUMENT THAT THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 5.11 AND THE APPROVED UNESCO 1975-76 PROGRAM ENVISAGED THIS MEETING AS CONSIDERING A DRAFT DECLARATION ALREADY PREPARED BY CONSULTANTS, AS NO DRAFT DECLARATION EXISTS SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH MASS MEDIA PREINCIPLES MEETING HAD BEFORE IT, AT OUTSET, IT WILL BE SUGGESTED TO M'BOW THAT FOLLOWING THAT "GENERAL DEBATE" MEETING, THERE WOULD BE CONVENED IN MID-1976 A PRIVATE RPT PRIVATE EXPERTS MEETING (CATEGORY 6) TO CONSIDER A DECLARATION DRAFT PREPARED BY EXPERT CONSULTANTS AS PER STANDARD UNESCO PRACTICE, AND THEN TO HAVE ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS MEETING (CATEGORY 2) IN SEPTEMBER TO UNDERTAKE THE BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL.

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MEETING ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR JANUARY 26-30 MEETING. THIS ADD-ON OF TWO ADDITIONAL PHASES MIGHT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A DRAFT DECLARATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE; DELAYING INTO THE NEXT BIENNUM ANY CONCLUSIVE UNDERTAKING ON THIS DECLARATION.

3. HOWEVER, UK DEPPERMREP ALSO ADVISED THAT NINE HERE

CONSIDERED POSTPONEMENT UNOBTAINABLE BECAUSE DG WOULD BE MAKING SUCH DECISION FOR TRANSPARENTLY POLITICAL REASONS THAT WOULD LEAVE HIM VULNERABLE TO CRITICISM OF CAVING UNDER US-WESTERN POLITICAL PRESSURE.

- 4. FURTHER, THE UNESCO NINE GROUP FELT THAT EVEN IF MEETING PROCEEDS AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, I.E. TO PRODUCE A DRAFT DECLARATION DOCUMENT, THEY ARE RECOMMENDING THAT THEIR COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE RATHER THAN LEAVE THE FIELD TO THE SOVIETS-EE AND MILITANT THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.
- 5. COMMENT: REPORTED NINE, SCENARIO AGREED UPON BY THEIR PERMREPS HERE HAS SOME MERIT IN AIMING TOWARDS A PARTIAL POSTPONEMENT.

HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO PRECLUDE ARAB HARD-LINERS FROM SUCCESSFULLY MOVING TO REJECT THE NINE'S PROPOSED SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF THE MEETING, MOREOVER EVEN IF ARABS ACQUIESCE, THEY WOULD LIKELY INSIST THAT ONE ELEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DOCUMENT THAT CONSULTANTS WOULD EVENTUALLY DRAFT WOULD HAVE TO BE THE ZIONISM-RACISM EQUATION. WHILE THE LATTER INSTANCE WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO OUTRIGHT ADOPTION OF ZIONISM-RACISM LANGUAGE AND AT LEAST PLACE SUCH FORMULATION IN THE CONTEXT OF A VERY TENTATIVE DOCUMENT SUBJECT TO FINAL GENRAL CONFERENCE APPROVAL, THIS NUANCE VERY LIKELY TO BE OVERLOOKED IN WESTERN MEDIA TREATMENT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THIS DECLARATION LIKE ANY OTHER PREPARED BY A CATEGORY II MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS IS SUBJECT TO GENERAL CONFERENCE APPROVAL.

PENDING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION AS TO DG'S CONFIDENTIAL

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REACTION TO NINE PROPOSAL, PERMDEL BELIEVES IT IS STILL IMPORTANT FOR U.S. TO GO AHEAD WITH DEMARCHE TO DG FOR OUTRIGHT POSTPONEMENT AS PROPOSED REFTEL. DEMARCHE COULD BE MADE IN SUCH A WAY TO STRENGTHEN M'BOW'S HAND AS THE MORE STATES THAT REQUEST POSTPONEMENT THE LESS LIKELY HE WILL BE SUBJECTED TO CHARGES OF PRESSURE. THEREFORE, PERMDEL BELIEVES EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO CONVINCE NINE AND OTHER MODERATES TO MOVE TOWARD ASKING FOR A POSTPONEMENT. IN SUM, WE FIND TENTATIVE "NINE" PROPOSAL TOO COMPLICATED AND TOO SUBJECT TO ARAB DERAILING, AS WELL AS LITERALLY TOO EXPENSIVE FOR ORGANIZATION IN ITS PRESENT FINANCIAL STRAITS, TO BE VIABLE.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: PERMDEL WOULD SUGGEST REPEATING

PARIS 32273 AND PARIS 33826 TO ALL OF INFO ADDRESSEES
ABOVE AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR EMBASSIES
REFERENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ZIONISM, MEETINGS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS33998

Document Number: 1975PARIS33998 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750451-0574

From: PARIS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975121/aaaaaakk.tel Line Count: 173 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION IO Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 4

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 PARIS 33826 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Authority: greeneet Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30 APR 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by greeneet>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UNESCO MEETING ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE DRAFT DECLARATION: "ZIONISM-RACISM": NINE

TAGS: OCON, PORG, XF, XG, UNESCO To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006